Conversion to NHs in NER

3143. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of State Highways declared as National Highways in the North Eastern (NER) during the last three years; and

(b) the details of progress made so far in such stretches of these National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Details of the National Highways declared during the last 3 years in the North Eastern Region are given as under:

SI. No.	National Highway No.	Description of National Highways	Date of declaration
1.	NH-155	The highway starting from the junction of NH-61 near Mokokchung in the State Nagaland connecting Tuensang-Sampurre-Meluri and passing through the State of Manipur and terminating at its junction with NH-150 near Jessami in the State of Nagaland.	25th February, 2004
2.	Extension of NHNo. 44	. The highway starting from its junction with NH-40 near Shillong and terminating at Nongstoin in the State of Meghalaya.	25th February, 2004

(b) Development and maintenance of national Highways is a continuous process depending upon availability of funds and inter-se-priority. During the year 2005-07 work of Rs. 6.18 crore has been sanctioned for improvement of NH-44E. However, the National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition within available resources.

Modernisation of Shipyards

3144. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for Maritime Board for modernisation of shipyards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the parameters adopted therefor; and

(d) what is the present-status of shipyards in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No proposal for setting up a Maritime Board for modernization of Shipyards is under consideration at present.

(d) There are 27 Shipyards in the country out of which 6 Shipyards are under *the* Central Government. The combined capacity of these yards is approximately 2,81,200 DWT and the maximum size of ship which can be built in Indian shipyard is.1,10,000 DWT. The order book position of Indian Shipyards is approximately Rs. 14,000 crore.

Hijacking of indian Ship

†3145. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some pirates had hijacked an Indian ship M.V. Nehm Tulah alongwith its 14 members crew on 1st April, 2007;

(b) if so, the conditions on which the said ship has been set free; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) As per reports received from the owners of the vessel, the vessel, cargo and ail the 14 crew members have been released at around 1120 hours Indian Standard Time on 8th April, 2007. The crew comprising all Indian nationals are safe. The Government is not aware of any conditions attached to the release of the said vessel.

(c) The Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai had issued a circular on 27th April, 2006 informing all concerned about the incidents of piracy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.